

# My perfect day

Elaine Paige OBE

AS an actress, singer and producer of musicals Elaine Paige has received hundreds of awards during her successful career, including an OBE.

Born in Barnet in 1948 she made her West End debut in the production of *Hair* in 1968. She then went on to make first headlines in 1978 when she appeared as Eva Peron in Hal Prince's original production of *Evita*.

She has since starred in numerous West End musicals including *Cats*, *Sunset Boulevard* and more recently the Drowsy Chaperone. She has also recorded 16 solo albums.

Here Elaine tells APRIL TOD about her Perfect Day on skis in Utah.

**"T**HERE are a couple of ski resorts I particularly like but I think my favourite has to be Deer Valley/Park City in Utah in the States.

"I am lucky enough to have friends who live there, so it's great to be able to stay in a place where you don't have to drive to or even walk to a nearby lift. They have a house right on the slopes, so we literally ski in and out of the house!

"I usually start my day with a hearty breakfast at a civilised hour, around 9am and have fresh berries, yoghurt, freshly squeezed orange juice, followed by bagels, cream cheese, smoke salmon with fresh capers, and pots of hot tea or coffee. Perfect!

"I think I've become a fair-weather skier in all respects. The perfect conditions for me are a bright sunny day with temperatures of around 28 to 30 degrees, and possibly a fresh fall of snow the night before. I like short lift lines and taking to the slopes with my pals around 10 - 10.30 in the morning!

"Our day would start out skiing on the Success run which is at the bottom of the mountain and a nice easy run to get your ski legs working. Then we'd

## MY PERFECT DAY



Brought to you in association with Shower power

Kriss Akabusi says: "If you start your perfect day with a shower, how long do you take?" Visit [www.waterwise.org.uk/showerpower](http://www.waterwise.org.uk/showerpower) to find out more.

go on to another favourite run of mine called The Carpenter Chair lift, after that we'd ski over to the Mid-Mountain lift.

"Here we would stop for a quick refreshing drink at the lodge owned by the famous Norwegian Stein Eriksen, the former ski racer who won a Gold medal in the Giant Slalom in the 1952 Olympics.

"He came to live in Utah after he was offered a job to teach skiing, and ended up building this famous Stein Eriksen Lodge 25 years ago. He actually celebrated his 80th birthday last season.

"After a short rest, we then take another lift up to the summit from where we would ski down the Perseverance Bowl, which is a slightly more aggressive run but it's one of my favourites so we'd go back and do it again. Half way through we stop again, this time for a steaming mug of hot chocolate in one of the little cafés where you can sit outside and enjoy the warm sun and where there are the most amazing views of the resort and the Uinta Mountains. Then it's a couple more similar runs before stopping for lunch.

"I like going to both The Grill or Steins to have lunch but I only like eating something light, like a salad with chicken, or a turkey chilli, or even the Deer Valley's speciality soup washed down with a bottle of good Californian wine.

"After about an hour it's time to don the skis again and start skiing usually for another couple of hours until around 1pm as that's when I'm ready to ski back home.

"There's nothing better than to be able to ski straight back to your front door which we



do although to get back to the house where I stay you have to ski through a small wood full of trees and then a very narrow steep passage which goes through the woods, this part always gives me the collywobblers. It's a bit of a difficult stretch but then minutes later we are skiing right into the house.

"Once at home after a wonderful day's skiing, it's time to have a long hot soak in the bath, and this is followed by a hot steam bath or sauna but I save the best to last, an hour of heavenly deep massage. If that doesn't soothe my aching limbs I don't know what will.

By 8pm it's cocktails time in front of the huge open log fire in the main living room, where I sip one of my favourite champagnes, Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin and eat a few Serrano caviar snacks, mmmm, yummy and what better way to start the evening.

"This is followed by a catered dinner of antipasti, pasta with shaved black or white truffles with a choice of deserts of tiramisu or profiteroles with lashings of cream!

"And finally a glass or two of Grappa as we sit round the log fire regaling each other with stories of our conquest of mountains, of black diamond runs, huge moguls and more — and oh yes, the imagination runs wild but it's all in a day's skiing.





★ **BEAVER CREEK:** A new Haymaker Tubing Hill has been opened at Beaver Creek in Colorado. It features four lanes of sledding action down a 400-foot-long groomed track.

Tubing is offered daily from 2 pm until dusk and hours will extend over the course of the season as days get longer through April.

"Beaver Creek is pleased to debut a new tubing hill for our guests," said Caragh McLaughlin, director of marketing for Beaver Creek Resort. "Tubing is a great family activity and it's the perfect complement to our other family-friendly programs."

★ **PARK CITY:** The Dakota Mountain Lodge is a new 175-room luxury development located in The Canyons Resort area in Utah.

It has many distinguishing features which include the new Frostwood Gondola offering ski-in/ski-out convenience, a 16,000 square foot Golden Door Spa and the award-winning Spruce restaurant and lounge, sister restaurant to Spruce, located in San Francisco.

Another new addition to The Canyons Resort's lodging properties is the Escala Lodges. The developers say this exclusive retreat is reminiscent of the Grand European lodges from a bygone era with its native mountain stonework and timber frame construction.

It features a luxury ski lounge with ski valet services and a year-round heated outdoor pool and large hot tubs.

And currently under construction is a new mountaintop hotel in Deer Valley Resort. It will offer ski-in, ski-out access to the slopes.

Park City is 35 minutes from Salt Lake City International Airport, and the three resorts that make up the major ski town - Deer Valley Resort, The Canyons Resort, Park City Mountain Resort - are minutes from each other.

★ **WINTER PARK:** This season will see the finishing touches put on the new Village at Winter Park in Colorado. The actual resort is now 70 years old this season.

The new base area, complete with a state-of-the-art Village Cabinier, features 20,000 square feet of new retail, rental, restaurant, and luxury living space.

Plus, the ski train from Denver is back between Denver's Union Station and Winter Park on weekends, holidays and other selected days.

★ **SNOW KITING:** British tour operator Ski Safari is offering snow kiting as an add-on to skiing in Utah.

Based a 30 minute drive from Park City, at Strawberry Reservoir, snow kiting tuition and kit hire is available through Funseekers, ranging from beginner tuition packages up to guided downwinders for those who have done it before. The only prerequisite is that you already have experience on skis or a snowboard.

A Ski Safari spokesperson said: "It's an exhilarating experience, much easier and less daunting than kitesurfing in water."





## NEWS FROM AMERICA

★ **PARK CITY:** The Dakota Mountain Lodge is a new 175-room luxury development located in The Canyons Resort area in Utah.

It has many distinguishing features which include the new Frostwood Gondola offering ski-in/ski-out convenience, a 16,000 square foot Golden Door Spa and the award winning Spruce restaurant and lounge, sister restaurant to Spruce, located in San Francisco.

Another new addition to The Canyons Resort's lodging properties is the Escala Lodges. The developers say this exclusive retreat is reminiscent of the Grand European lodges from a bygone era with its native mountain stonework and timber frame construction.

It features a luxury ski lounge with ski valet services and a year round heated outdoor pool and large hot tubs.

And currently under construction is a new mountaintop hotel in Deer Valley Resort. It will offer ski-in, ski-out access to the slopes.

Park City is 35 minutes from Salt Lake City International Airport, and the three resorts that make up the major ski town, - Deer Valley Resort, The Canyons Resort, Park City Mountain Resort - are minutes from each other.



# Ski Oddities

## Ski-in for a drink

A NEW distillery, which the owners believe is the first in the US since prohibition, will open at Park City in Utah, the state most famous for its strict alcohol laws.

The High West Distillery will also be the world's first ski-in distillery but in keeping with Utah's strict alcohol consumption laws the new distillery will be operated as a private club meaning visiting skiers must pay a token membership fee to join or be invited in as a guest of an existing member if they are to sample the product.

High West has begun

brewing its own Whisky under the direction of a Scottish-trained master distiller and has already produced its first vodka.

## Waste not, want not

THE Supreme Court in the US has rejected an appeal by a number of native American tribes that want to stop Arizona Snowbowl ski area from making snow from recycled and purified waste water to use on the ski slopes which the tribes say are sacred lands.

The indigenous tribes believe that using purified waste water to make snow is essentially the same as dumping sewage on

their sacred land. The Supreme Court decided that as the ski area is based on US National Forest rather than tribally owned land it was up to the state to decide how the land is used.

## High chair challenge

GULMARG in India's Kashmir region, which currently operates the world's third highest gondola lift, may soon be able to take top spot when it comes to the world's highest chair lift.

Currently the world's highest chairlift is in Breckenridge, Colorado, and reaches 12,840 feet (3,914m). It is not clear yet how high the Gulmarg lift will go, but the resort does offer gondola accessed skiing to nearly 4,000m/over 13,000 feet.

## Pig of a day

THE exclusive Swiss resort of Klosters is celebrating New Year's Day by racing pigs.

The 'Hotschrennen' race will take place in the resort centre on the afternoon of 1st January when guests and spectators can cheer and place a bet on their favourite little porker.

## Palm trees in the snow

BAD Gastein's lift company, Gastelmer Bergbahnen, has announced a special event next Easter - time, Palms on Alps.

The event, on 28 March, will see 50 genuine palm trees planted high up in the mountains at Sportgastein as the centre piece of the tropically themed celebrations with cocktails and music.

## Going, going, gone

THE Swiss ski area of Winterhorn, in the Ursern Valley of Central Switzerland, looks to have been saved from bankruptcy after being put up for sale on an internet auction site.

The lifts and a restaurant, which didn't open last winter, were put up for sale on the internet for 250,000 Swiss Francs (\$232,000) attracting interest from Switzerland, Germany and Russia according to reports.

The sale comes 18 months after Bruno Prior, a British entrepreneur, paid a token one Swiss franc to buy another Swiss ski-lift company at Ernen.



**SOLITUDE:** A new Powderhorn II lift will take only seven minutes compared to 12 minutes on the old double chair allowing skiers and boarders to reach some of the Utah's steepest territory even faster. Powderhorn II will start from the bottom of Sunshine Bowl and end in the same location as the original Powderhorn Lift. The move to a mid-mountain starting point allows expert skiers and boarders to make continuous laps on the upper mountain - from Diamond Lane to Sunshine Bowl - without the need to return to the base area via beginner runs.